



The Navigators Military Ministry Staff in Training Curriculum

The Call of God

(Version 1.1, 21 December 2006)

To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations, through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.

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Adapted from Navigator Collegiate Staff Training

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Version 1.7

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The Call of God

Introduction

There is both a certainty and a mystery woven into the call of God. It is certain in that men and women have responded to an invitation by God to partner with Him. There is a certainty that has shaped the destiny of many, a passion that gives boldness and faith to ordinary people. Yet, it is also a mystery, something not always understood, something unique and unpredictable.

In this study, we'll explore some of the certainties and mysteries of God's call.

Outline

Study 1: The Call
What does the Bible say about calling?

Study 2: The Called
Examples of men and women called by God

Study 3: Calling Made Real
How does our calling translate into real life?

Study 1: The Call

Introduction

What do we mean by God's call? In this study, we'll look at how the word calling is used and help define calling as it is used in the Scriptures. Do a conviction study on calling using the following format:

Purpose: Search the Scriptures to accurately define the Call of God and its application.

Find key verses on the subject.

Run each verse thru the mill (who, what, when, where, why, and how).

What principles did you find?

What forms did you find?

Write three "I believe" statements.

Application (measurable, achievable, and accountable).

Memorize one verse.

For Thought and Discussion

What have you discovered from your study of calling?

How would you define or explain God's call? How would you explain it to others?

What do you think of this definition of God's call by Os Guinness? Do you agree with it? Disagree?

Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service.

— from "The Call" by Os Guinness

Study 2: The Called

Introduction

What were the experiences of others? How did God call other men and women through the pages of the Scriptures? We will explore some of the people that God called, and look for any patterns or principles from their lives.

Examples of Those Called

From the list to the right, pick five people and study their lives as it relates to God's call on their lives.

In your study, look for the following things:

- What were they called to?
- How was the calling given to them?
- Was the task/ calling something that was long term or short term in length?
- What basis was there to why they were called?
- Was there a change in profession? Location?
- What effect did their calling (and response to it) have on the relationships around them?
- What long terms effect did their response to their calling have?
- What may have happened if they said "no" to God's call on their life? How might that have impacted us today?

For Reflection and Discussion

Based on what you studied, what conclusions can you draw concerning the call of God?

As you have now taken a look into God's ways and purposes of His calling in general and in people's lives, what were some differences and similarities that you saw when comparing the ways and purposes?

What were some of the weaknesses which people felt would disqualify them from serving God? How did God answer those objections? What are some of the weaknesses that you feel would disqualify you from God's calling on your life?

Was there a specific thought for you personally from the Lord as a result of your study on these characters?

Adam & Eve
Noah
Abraham
Moses
Bezalel & Oholiab
The Levites
Deborah
David
Esther
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Nehemiah
John the Baptist
Mary (*mother of Jesus*)
Peter
Paul
The Seven (*Stephen*)
Lydia
Timothy
Aquila & Priscilla
John Mark

Study 3: Calling Made Real

Introduction

What does God's call look like on your life? As you evaluate your experiences on staff, how is your calling shaping the way you look towards the future?

Our International Calling

Where are you in embracing the Navigators' Calling as your own?

How have you seen our Calling at work in your life and ministry?

To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations, through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.
—*The Navigators' Calling*

Personal Design, Gifting, and Calling

Consider the following passages. What do they say in regards to your design and gifting? What relationship do you see between them and calling? What do you believe are your gifts and abilities?

Psalm 139:1–6; 13–18

Jeremiah 1:1–10

Ephesians 2:10

Romans 12:3–8

1 Corinthians 12

Ephesians 4:7–15

1 Peter 4:10–11

Personal Calling

Meditate through the following considerations that could affect your calling and evaluate God's specific direction for you in light of each of these. Write down how each applies to you.

- **A Need** – Is there a particular need in God's harvest that you can't get away from or feel a special burden for?
- **Open/Closed Doors** – Are there opportunities for service/ministry that are available to you?
- **Subjective Leading** – Do you see, hear, and feel God choosing you for a particular work?
- **Voice of the People** – Are you discerning God's leading through the attitudes, reactions, and directions of others, especially those responsible for various areas of your life? What has the body of Christ said about your gifting or calling?

- **Desire** – Is there some particular thing that you have a strong desire to do?
- **Contribution** – Is there some particular thing you feel you can make a lasting contribution to?
- **Fulfillment** – Is there some particular aspect of service/ministry that would give you long-range fulfillment?
- **Fruitfulness** – Do you sense God's specific hand of blessing on a particular aspect of service/ministry?
- **Circumstantial Leading** – Can you state the circumstances of how God has led you both past and present?
- **The Scriptures** – What kind of direction has the Word of God given to you in regards to your life and ministry? Do you have any promises or life verses?

Thought for Discussion

What is God's call for all followers of Jesus?

What is the relationship between one's calling and a person's employment?

What about one's areas of responsibilities and his/ her calling or gifting?

How does our faithfulness relate to our calling? What happens to our calling if we are not faithful in doing what God has asked of us?

How does understanding and believing in your calling apply to your fund raising?

Summary

Write out a summary of what the call of God is.

Write out what you believe God has called you into (in life, ministry, and specific roles). Write down what you can see to be clear, and what still seems vague or uncertain.

Based on what you believe God has called you to, what steps do you need to take to grow into that calling?